



SOCER STAR

SERVING VICTORIAN SOCCER

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PRESTON IN TURMOIL

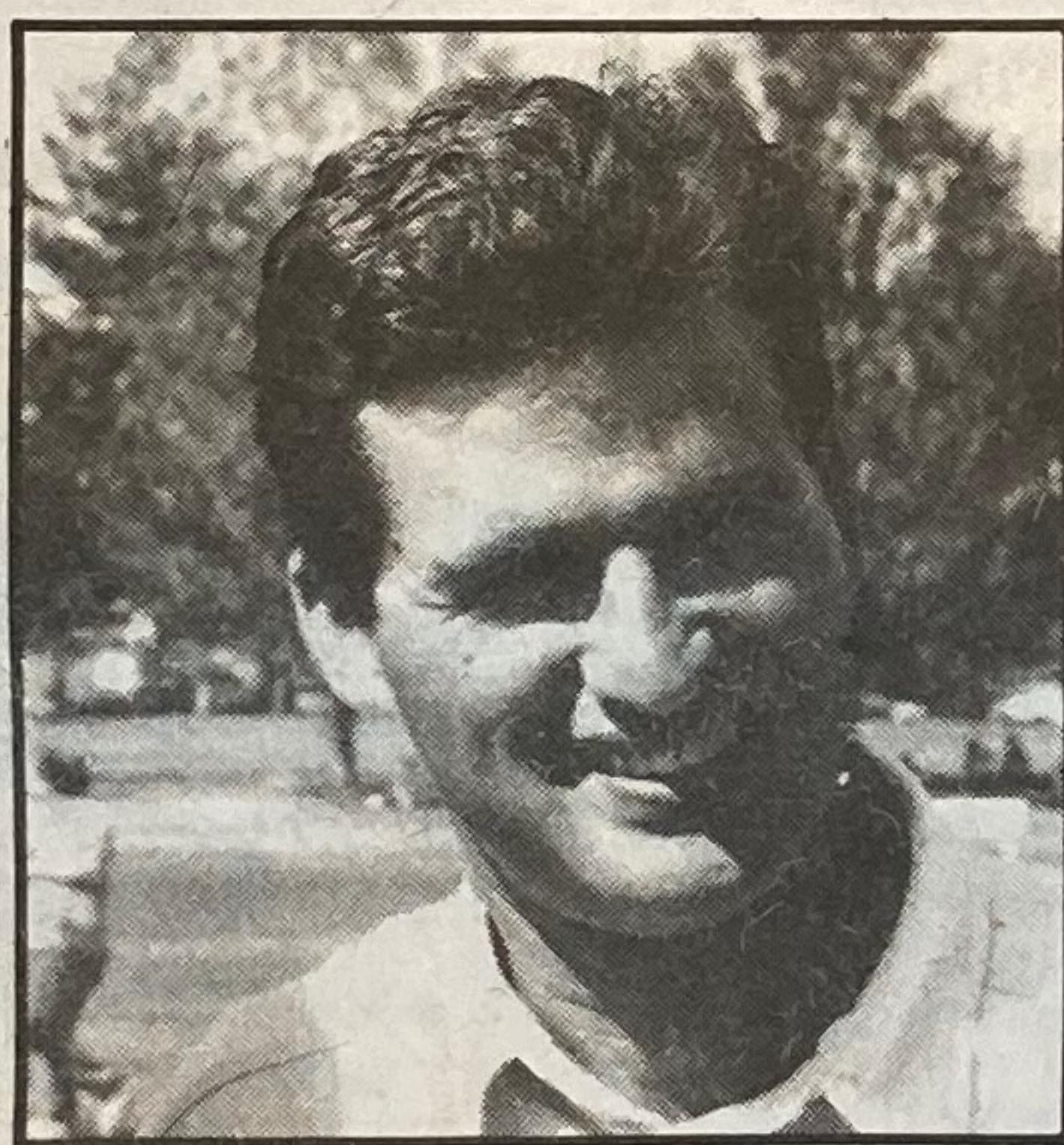
By LES SHORROCK

Preston Makedonia committee was meeting yesterday afternoon to discuss the club's dire League position and seems certain to dump coach Ernie Merrick.

After eight games without a win and with only one goal to its name, Preston languishes at the foot of the ladder and the Preston committee feels that Merrick's position is becoming untenable.

Police had to be rushed to the ground after last Sunday's 3-0 loss to Sydney Olympic at Connor Reserve.

The crowd demonstrated against Merrick and club officials at the end of the game and half an hour after the game police had to escort them away from the ground.



● Miron Bleiberg, declined



● Ernie Merrick, going?



● Tony Vrzina, favourite

It's an ironic twist of fortune for Ernie Merrick. He found himself in charge last year after the club dumped Bill Murray during the midseason break.

Preston was in the doldrums, but Merrick revitalised the team and with an almost unchanged squad took the club into the final five series.

Now the wheel has turned full circle again. The same squad that did Merrick proud in the second half of the last season has let him down, and although he still has faith in his players and believes they will come good, the supporters have lost patience.

Import Saso Petkovski who arrived with a fanfare of publicity turned out to be unfit and has still to play a senior game. In an effort to improve its strike force, Preston bought Stuart Stevenson, but still the goals didn't come.

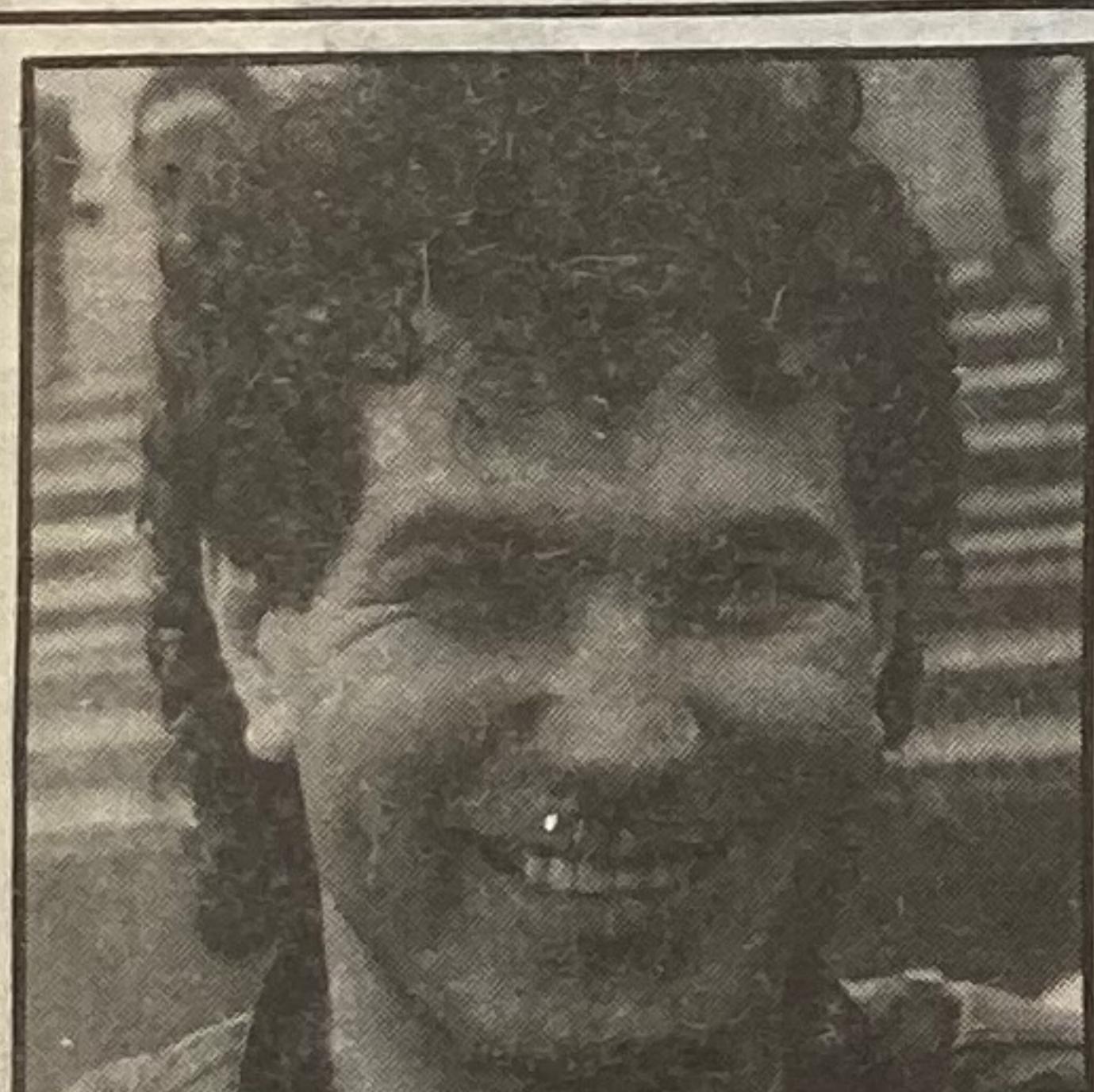
Suspensions took their toll too, and defeat seemed inevitable last week when the team was robbed of its two central defenders, Zoran Tasevski and Steve Jackson.

Favourite for the coaching position as we went to press seemed to be St. Albans' Tony Vrzina.

Croydon City's Miron Bleiberg has also been considered but is unlikely to accept.



● Australia's Charlie Yankos (left) in action against China Taipei's Wang Yen-Wen during the Olympic qualifying match at Auckland on Saturday. Australia won 3-0 to qualify for the Seoul Olympic Games by one point over Israel.



● Harry Michaels

HARRY MICHAELS PUNCHED

A frustrated George Cross fan punched Wollongong boss TV entrepreneur Harry Michaels, in the mouth at the conclusion of the game at Chaplin Reserve on Sunday.

It is not known whether the assailant, who was unavailable for interview was annoyed at the outcome of the game which George Cross lost, or wished to express his opinion of SBS television, which has an audience rating of 1.8%.

Media gives soccer the cold shoulder — Page 2

Hawks, Cats more important than Olympics?

MEDIA IS OFFSIDE

AT THE risk of being labelled a 'paranoid new chum' or a 'bloody wog' at worst, may I humbly pose this question: Why was Hawthorn's win in the Panasonic Cup grand final more important than the Socceroos' win over Chinese Taipei and their qualification for the 1988 Seoul Olympics?

If you think that playing in an Olympic soccer tournament for the first time since 1956, when, as hosts, we automatically qualified, is more important than Hawthorn's two-point win over Geelong then you don't read newspapers, nor do you listen to radio or watch commercial TV.

I also suspect that many of you are unaware of the machinations of newspapers — how stories are judged, and what space is accorded them and in which part of the paper.

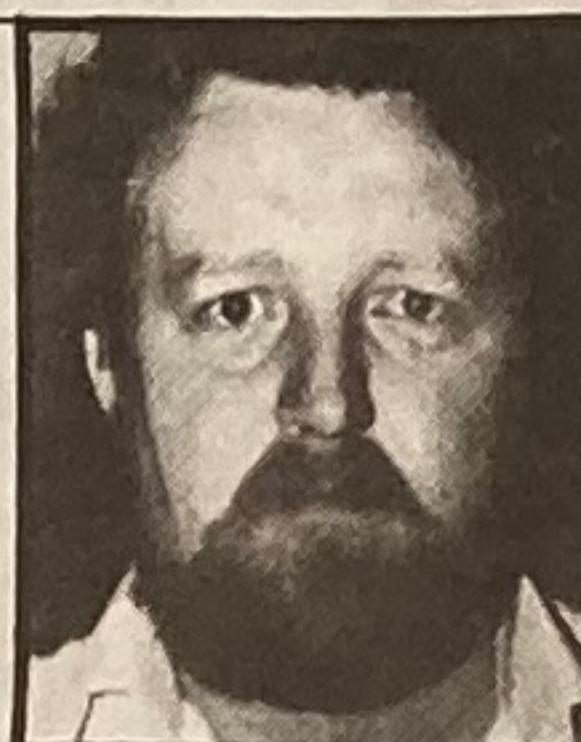
Bear with me for a minute or so and I'll explain.

POOR RELATIONS

Soccer journalists in Victoria and, I suspect, throughout most parts of this country, are the poor relations of sports journalism.

They are at the mercy of the whims of a sports editor, but, more importantly, the flights of fancy of a man known as a chief sub-editor.

By CRAIG MacKENZIE



DAMN STUPID

The first 100 times are the worst. You see, we soccer scribes are pretty resilient. Pretty damn stupid too, come to think of it.

Dare I suggest that the creeping paralysis of racism is inherent in the treatment given by most newspapers to soccer stories?

I want you to pause for a while next time you search through a newspaper and uncover the soccer story you were looking for.

I don't want you to think that the soccer writer for that paper isn't doing his or her job.

Now you know what goes on. Now you can understand what it's like to submit three or four stories a week and get just one published and that in a greatly reduced form too.

Now you know what sort of racist bastards are in power positions in many newspapers.

AWFUL PERFORMANCE

HAVING got that off my chest, what a thrill I got watching the Socceroos qualify for Seoul.

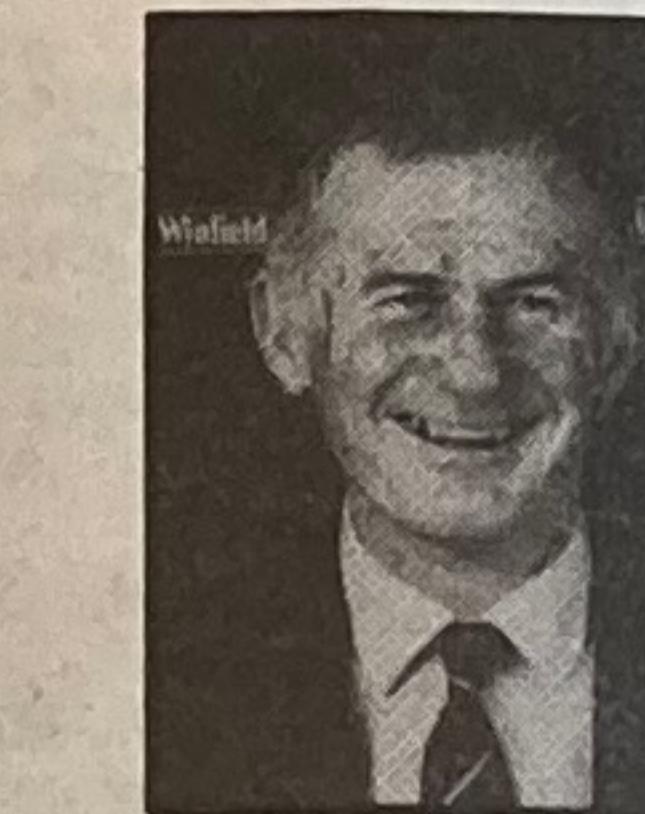
But not in the way they defeated Chinese Taipei. Frankly, our performance in Sunday's Eden Park clash was bloody awful.

No, the thrill I experienced was in realising that in a few months' time we'll be strutting our stuff on the world stage for the first time since the 1974 World Cup finals in West Germany.

That's a magnificent achievement, one that

That then, is the dilemma facing most of soccer scribes.

The new soccer scribe, pen and pad in hand, heads off enthusiastically in search of a scoop, finds it, writes the story well, then rushes out next morning to discover it buried inbetween horse racing fields or relegated to the sports page threatened by the spill of classified advertising.



• Frank Arok

this paper at least, did not miss the significance of.

And in Oscar Crino and Micky Petersen we are going to go into the Olympic tournament with a deal of skill in midfield.

Now the problems start afresh for Frank Arok.

He must map out a preparation program for Seoul. He must come to terms with what he thinks is his strongest line-up.

By my reckoning, he must drop, from his first 11, two of the following four players: John Kosmina, Graeme Arnold, David Mitchell and Jim Patikas.

I can't see how Arok can fit all of them into his best side.

But what a lovely problem to have.

Good luck, Frank, and well done to all the players who have contributed so much to putting Australian soccer on the map.

Sir Arthur plans for the Bicentennial Gold Cup

Who needs Craig Johnston

By LES SHORROCK

as whether it is fair to the rest of the Australian team.

Who would go to make room for patriotic Craig?

Would it be Frank Farina, Graham Arnold or John Kosmina himself?

The blatant cynicism of it all is strongly reminiscent of the way those expatriates who love to call Australia home, but can't bear to think of living here, flock back when they think there is a dollar to be made.

"I'll bet Craig Johnston didn't offer to pay his own first-class air fare and waive the match fee."

In Sir Arthur's defence it has to be said that he doesn't meet many soccer fans in this country, you can attend any match in New South Wales for instance safe in the knowledge that you are not going to bump into him.

Johnston as I recall was bursting with pride when he was chosen for England at Under/21 level in 1981, and only two years back he was quite desperate to play for Scotland... no doubt equally proudly.

"It's a commercial proposition," says Sir Arthur dismissively, waving away such trifles



• Sir Arthur George



• Craig Johnston

Aboriginal somewhere in his family tree)... and what about Ian Rush... Glenn Hodder...

There are signs in all this that the ASF is beginning to get the jitters about the financial viability of the projected Gold Cup.

Continued Page 10

TO HELL WITH THE HIERARCHY

By LES SHORROCK

beating Chinese Taipei to qualify for Seoul.

jealousy.

One sports editor virtually called me a liar when I pointed out to him that at the last Olympic Games, and at most of the previous ones too, the biggest crowd of all was for the soccer.

Fixtures are changed at a minute's notice and we aren't informed, but if we complain, we are told we are being uncooperative and putting the game in a bad light.

The administration of the NSL dislikes Soccer Star, it refuses to advertise with us, we get media releases, if at all, days too late and it would love to see us go out of business and all because we have had the temerity from time to time to criticise it.

But we refuse to buckle and go under and we'll continue to do our damnedest to give you all the news about ALL the soccer in Victoria and to hell with the hierarchy.

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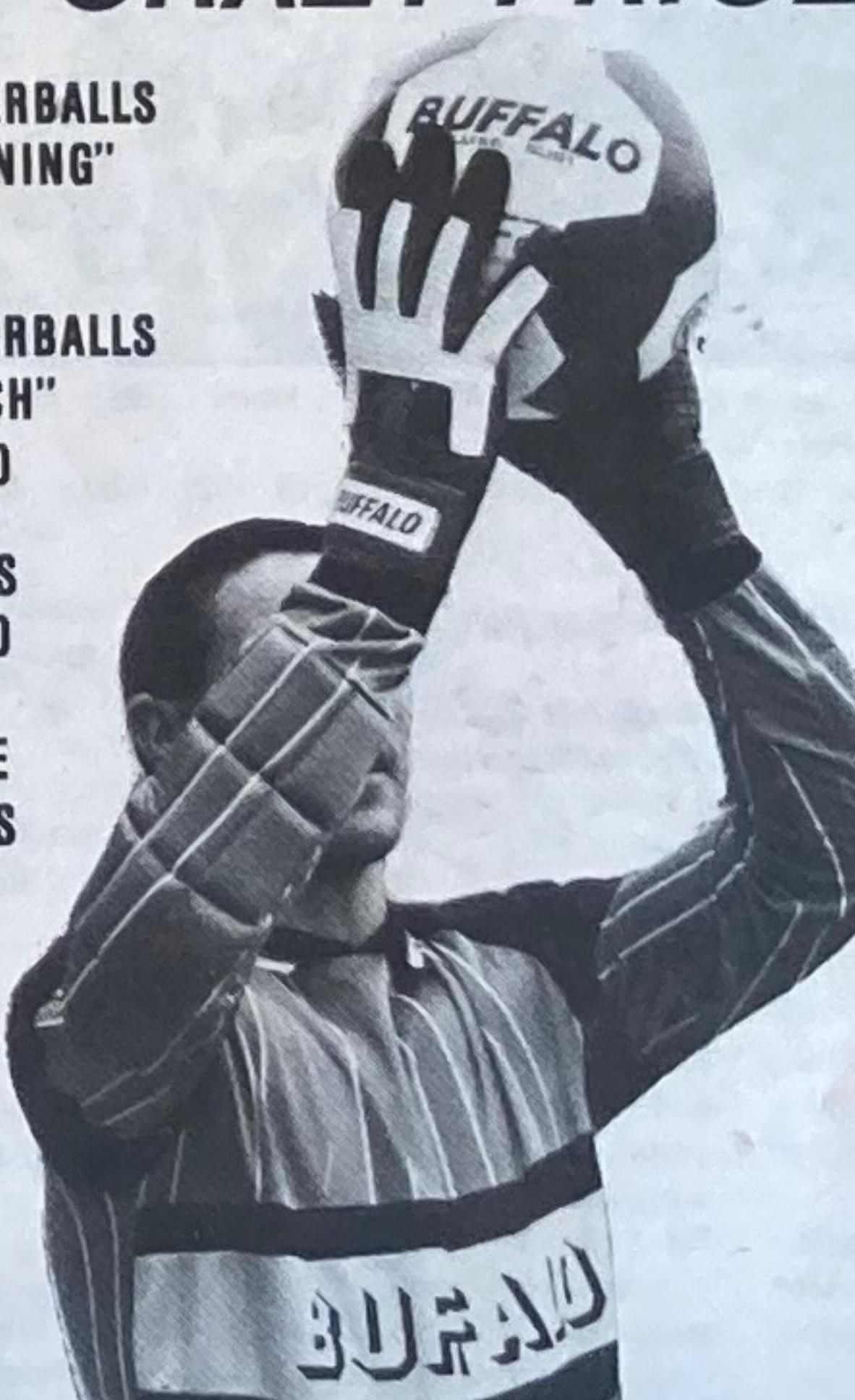
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CERAMIC



Your score-card — see Page 13

HOW THEY STAND

N.S.L. LADDER

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| WOLLONGONG | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 8 | 12 |
| MARCONI | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 19 | 9 | 11 |
| SYDNEY OLYMPIC | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 3 | 10 |
| SOUTH MELBOURNE | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 11 | 10 |
| GEORGE CROSS | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 15 | 15 | 9 |
| Melbourne Croatia | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 8 |
| Sydney Croatia | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| Brisbane Lions | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 12 | 7 |
| APIA Leichhardt | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 11 | 13 | 6 |
| Footsray | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 6 |
| Adelaide City | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 6 |
| Juventus | 7 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 5 |
| St. George | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 12 | 13 | 4 |
| Preston Mak. | 8 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 4 |

NATIONAL YOUTH LADDER

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| PRESTON | 8 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 26 | 9 | 14 |
| STH. MELBOURNE | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 22 | 6 | 12 |
| MELB. CROATIA | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 20 | 12 | 11 |
| SUNSHINE G.X. | 7 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 30 | 8 | 10 |
| BU Juventus | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 10 | 8 |
| Clarinda | 7 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 15 | 19 | 8 |
| Caulfield City | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 17 | 7 |
| Oakleigh | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 17 | 21 | 7 |
| Heidelberg Utd. | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 6 |
| Clifton Hill | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 16 | 27 | 6 |
| Footsray | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 16 | 5 |
| Nunawading City | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 25 | 4 |
| Wav/Mulgrave Utd. | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 25 | 0 |

National Youth League Results Round 8

MELBOURNE CROATIA 3 FOOTSCRAY 0
CAULFIELD CITY 1 NUNAWADING CITY 2
PRESTON 5 OAKLEIGH 1
CLIFTON HILL 2 ST. GEORGE CROSS 8
SOUTH MELBOURNE 3 HEIDELBERG UN. 1
WAV/MULG. UNITED 1 B. JUVENTUS 5
CLARINDA bye.

LUCKY SOUTH SURVIVES

BRISBANE LIONS



Back Row: Jason Kearton, Nick Meredith, Frank Liddell, Grant Lightbown, Richard Bassingthwaite, Peter Dwyer.
Front Row: Alex Cumings, Frank Mengotti, Alan Niven, John Ogden, Russell Stewart, David Clarkson.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2 (Tasios 8th, Postecoglou 52nd)
BRISBANE LIONS 1 (Mengotti 20th)
This win took South's unbeaten streak to eight consecutive games, but it was far from convincing.

It all started out so rosily too, with South taking the lead after only eight minutes and the fans settling back to enjoy what could be another high-scoring day.

Paul Trimboli jauntily strode past fullback Alex Cummings, who slipped and left Trimboli with time to wait for Steve Tasios to arrive in the penalty area before pushing the ball coolly to him.

Tasios was able to side-foot the ball home with ease. But then came a goal that jolted South and exposed the defensive

flaws that must give Brian Garvey nightmares.

Centre-half Frank Mengotti picked up a ball just outside his own penalty area and went surging forward looking for a taker.

South retreated and suddenly Mengotti was the villain, as referee Dennis Voussinas, after consulting his linesman awarded a penalty for hands against the defender.

Angie Postecoglou, rapidly becoming a penalty king thrashed the ball past young Jason Kearton who hardly had

NATIONAL LEAGUE ROUND-UP

ROUND EIGHT DETAILS

Youth League — Round 9

SUNDAY, APRIL 3
SUNDAY, APRIL 3
HEIDELBERG UNITED v. CLARINDA
CLIFTON HILL bye
SUNSHINE G.X. v. PRESTON
OAKLEIGH v. CAULFIELD CITY
NUNAWADING CITY v. MELBOURNE CROATIA
BRUNSWICK U.J. v. SOUTH MELBOURNE 1.15pm
FOOTSCRAY v. WAVERLEY/MULGRAVE UNITED

LEADING GOALSCORERS

4. Farina (Marc)
5. Spink (Foots)
Phillips (APIA)
4. Gray (Marc)
R. Stewart (Lions)
Paul Lewis (MC) (2 pens)
Postecoglou (SM 3 pens)
Saad (Olympic 2 pens)
3. Clark (G.X.)
Easthope (Woll)
Egan (Juve)
Lennon (G.X.)
McLaren (G.X.)
Meredith (Lions)
Ollerenshaw (St. George)
Palatides (Juve)
Tasios (S.M.)
• • •

Trimboli (S.M.)
Vidmar (Adcity)
2. Ainsworth (Woll) (1 pen)
Brazil (Woll)
Carter (G.X.)
Crino (Foots)
Drury (Lions)
Gomez (Marc)
Kozca (St.G.)
Lightbown (Lions)
Lowe (Marc)
Murphy (M.Cro)
Maxwell (Adcity)
Nastevski (Marc)
Pontidas (Olympic)
Taliadoros (S.M.)

ADELAIDE CITY 1 (Vidmar 56th)

MARCONI 1 (Lowe 40th)

At Olympic Sportsfield, Sunday. Crowd 3870. Referee J. Rosis.
ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica 7 — Shillabeer 7, Nyskohus 6, Flounders 7, Northcote 8 (Miller 82nd) — Metla 8, Santac 6, Villani 6, Vidmar 9 — Mullen 7, Maxwell 7. Coach Zoran Matic.

MARCONI: Catlin 9 — Carter 7, Henderson 6, Calderan 6 (Sharne 82nd), Wheatley 7 — Mason 7, Gomez 8, Nastevski 7, Surjan 6 (Rizzotto 85th) — Lowe 8, Gunning 8. Coach Berti Mariani.

MELBOURNE CROATIA 2 (Paul Lewis 75th, & 82nd)

FOOTSCRAY 0
At Olympic Park, Sunday. Crowd 2203.
MELBOURNE CROATIA: Sango — Valentic, Hannah, Dobson, Heys — Biskic, Selemidis, Milesevic, Scott — Lewis, Talajic. Coach Ian Wallace.
FOOTSCRAY: Nikitovic 7 — Deankovic 7, Murphy 5, van Egmond 6, James 5, Fabrizio 6 — Bozovinski 5, Tapai 5, Lujic 3 — Dimoski 4, Spink 8. Coach Mirsad Fazlagic.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA 0

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3 (Soper 42nd, Saad 76th & 83rd, pen)

At Connor Reserve, Sunday. Crowd 2000. Referee J. Fraser.
PRESTON: Traianides — Opasinić, Roodhouse, Puculovski, McLennan — Petrov, Stewart (Soklevski 70th), Campbell, Gojević (Dimovski 60th) — Smith, Stevenson. Coach Ernie Merrick.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier — Barrett, Haniotis, Phillips, Hooker — Polak (Koch 85th), Soper, Lee, Raskopolous — Patalis, Soper. Coach Mick Hickman.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 0

WOLLONGONG 1

At Chaplin Reserve, Sunday. Crowd 2200. Referee C. Bambridge. Caution A. Marth (CX).

GEORGE CROSS: Keogh 7 — Marth 8, Weddell 7, Parton 7, Campelj 7 — Carter 5 (Hasler 85th), Markovski 5, Markovac 6, McLaren 6 — Lennon 6, Clark. Coach John Gardiner.

WOLLONGONG: Young 8 — Skeen 8, Ratcliffe 9, Vlietstra 7, Hollifield 7 — Cokely 6 (Kotamanides 75th), Crainie 7, Brodnik 8, Morlando 7 — Keyes 6 (Easthope 80th), Brazil 8. Coach John Fleming.

organised and flung on Harry Michell and Paul Fernandes in the closing minutes in an attempt to stem the tide.

Lions fought it out right to the final whistle and almost snatched a point,

when a speculative cross from Russell Stewart went over Giatis' head only to glance harmlessly off the crossbar.

In view of the ease with which Lions seem to gain penalties at home,

'BLUES' DISAPPOINTED

It was another disappointing day for Footscray fans, who have not seen their team win since the opening match of the season. But if it was a sickener for the Blues, it was a happy day for Croatia coach Ian Wallace, who has had to

disappointments himself since taking over the reins.

He went into this game with some trepidation too, missing Alan Davidson and Robbie Dunn, both on the injured list, and with Jeff Oliver on international duty.

Croatia having transferred its previous first team keeper, Mirko Runje to Croydon, was forced to rely on untried youth keeper, Johnny Sango who came through the ordeal well.

Not that he had much to do. The shot-shy Footsray attack, having transferred its previous first team keeper, Mirko Runje to Croydon, was forced to rely on untried youth keeper, Johnny Sango who came through the ordeal well.

He fumbled once, dropping the ball in front of Dimoski, who was slow to react and missed the chance.

The oppressive heat had much to do with the lethargic standard of the game and the crowd had little to enthuse about until right on the hour lively Spink fired over the bar when he should have scored.

Dallas ditchwater Wollongong went to the top of the table with another of those defensive displays that make a mockery of attacking soccer.

The winning goal fitted the occasion.

A huge clearance by Wollongong's goalkeeper Warren Young bounced into the George Cross penalty area and Pat Brodnik ran on to it and hooked it over the advancing Sean Keogh's head.

The match is best summed up by the fact that veteran Socceroo David Ratcliffe was the man of the match at sweeper.

Still, the Wolves supremo, TV entrepreneur, Harry Michaels who was punched in the mouth by an angry Georgie fan for having the temerity to look pleased about the result went home satisfied with the outcome and his enterprise in bringing out Brazil, but it is to be

ADCITY ROCKS MARCONI

ADELAIDE CITY 1 (Vidmar 56th)
MARCONI 1 (Lowe 40th)
ADELAIDE City's revival continued with a fighting 1-1 draw against leader Marconi in very humid conditions at Olympic Sportsfield.

terms with themselves three minutes later when Vidmar snapped up a rebound following a Charlie Villani free kick and hammered the ball home.

Villani could have won the game as he swept into the box to collect a Mullen header, but he lost control at the vital moment.

The game had a surprise aftermath as City coach Zoran Matic, who resigned recently and then changed his mind, lashed out in a TV interview saying that disruptive elements within the club were helping to destroy it.

Match has been at loggerheads for some time with Danish import Jesper Sorensen.

Sorensen was in the squad for the Marconi game, but refused to sit on the bench, which led president Charlie Caruso to declare that he had broken his contract.

GEORGIE THROWN TO THE WOLVES

Adrian Santrac and Sergio Melta began to find gaps in the Marconi defence, only to come up against goalkeeper Bob Catlin in great form.

Catlin foiled Steve Maxwell twice in the space of two minutes, first whipping the ball off the striker's toe and then smothering a close-range effort.

But five minutes before half-time a clever back-heal by Nastevski put David Lowe in the clear and the former youth Socceroo beat Robert Zabica with a low drive to put marcon ahead.

The game came against

the run of play, but City almost went further behind as Tony Surjan's drive flashed across the face of an empty goal.

Joe Mullen raised City fans' hopes when he went close with a good drive early in the second half, and the fans were on good

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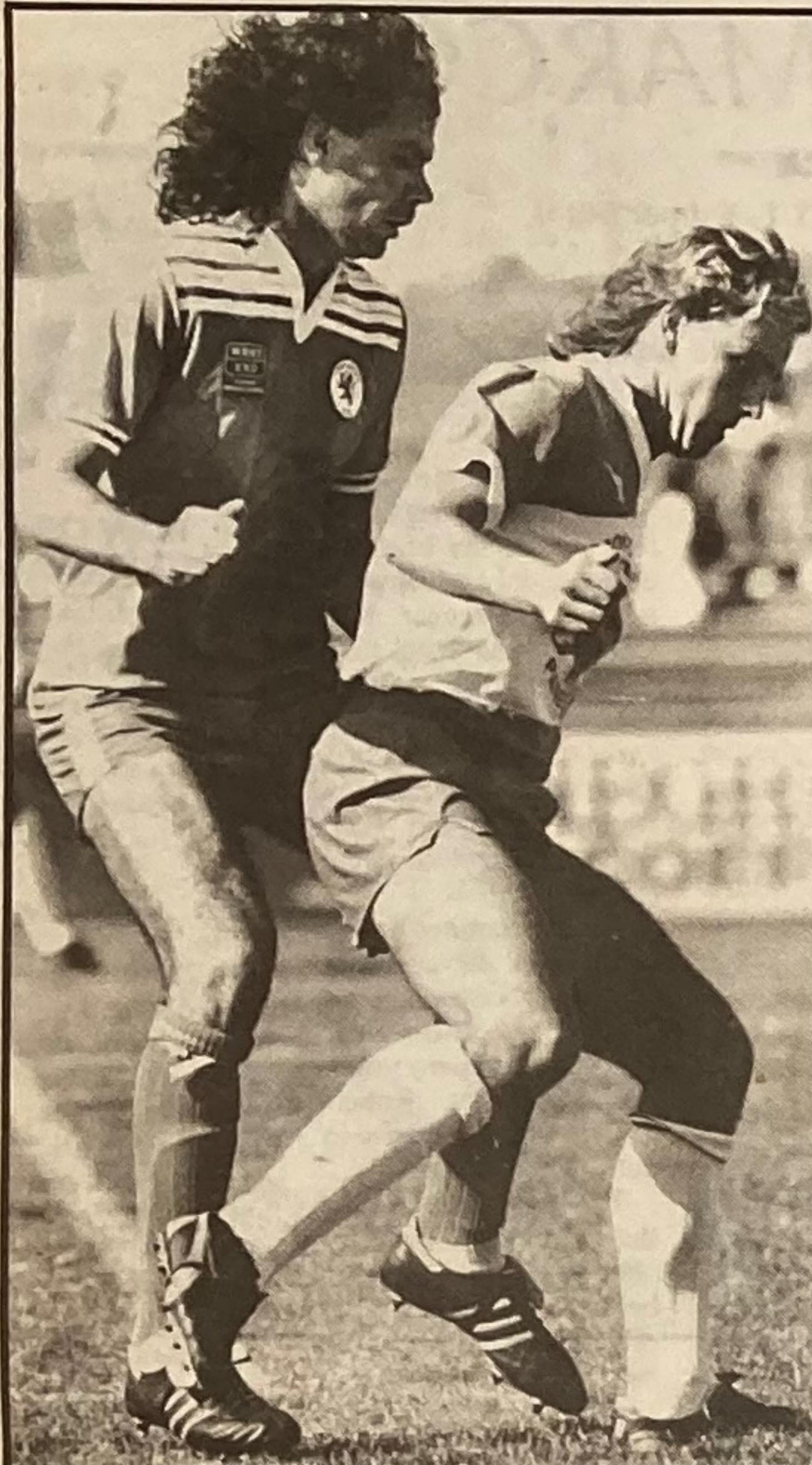
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Soccer Star's



Action-Packed Picture Page



• Paul Trimboli challenged by Alex Cummings.



• Panic stations in the South Melbourne goalmouth.



• David Healy and Peter Dwyer clash.



• South's Kim Taliopoulos.



• Jeff Olver in action.

Summer Soccer a winner

SUMMER soccer is over and no-one in his right mind can argue that it was not a success.

There were some disappointing crowds — but they were on Saturday which traditionally is a bad day for soccer or they were at games involving clubs which would not draw crowds if their team were made up of 11 naked sex goddesses — on the other hand... it's something Juventus could try.

Anyway, had all these games been played in winter, I'm sure the average crowd would have been much lower.

And I am keeping things in perspective by acknowledging that most of the top-drawing matches involved Hellas.

We don't have a Hellas popping up every year.

On the other hand, Footscray JUST also has been well supported due to the entertaining soccer it plays and the Maltese are turning up in bigger numbers to watch George Cross winning.

Makedonia and Melbourne Croatia, however have not yet done much to enthuse their fans.

In Croatia's case, it is a matter of waiting for Alan Davidson, Jeff Olver and Robbie Dunn to return.

In Makedonia's case — who knows?

What would have made summer soccer even more successful was a reliable fixtures list.

Fixtures were issued at the start of the season but systematically changed from week to week.

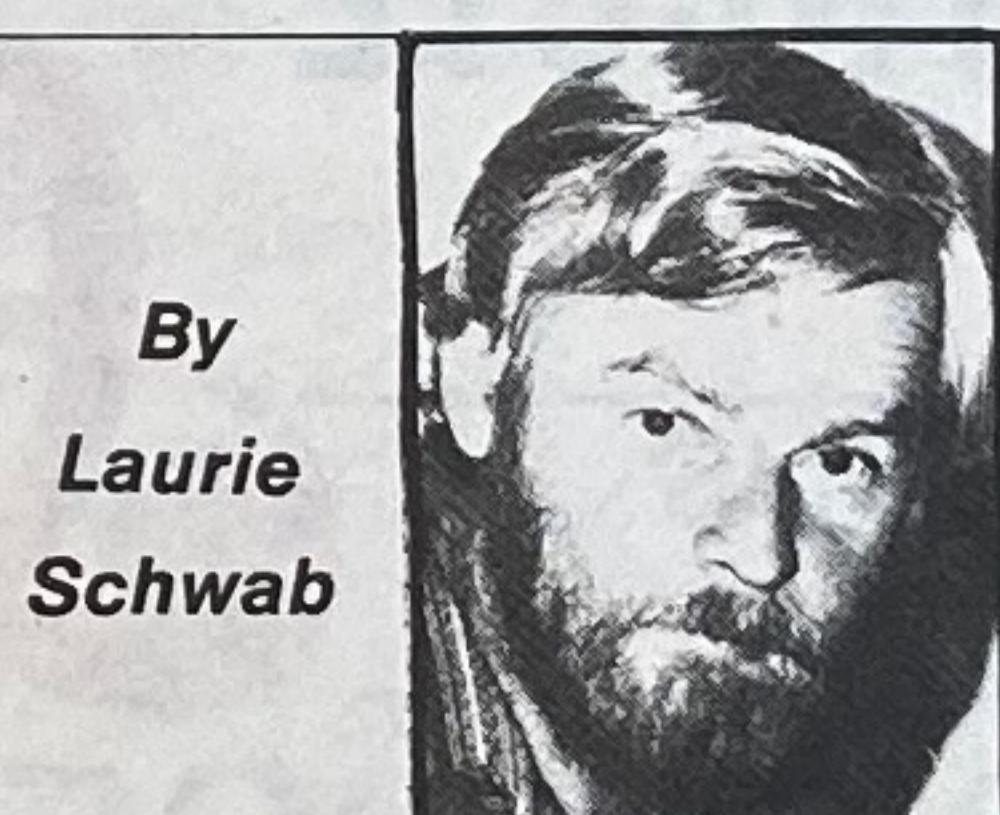
The fans had no hope of keeping up and consequently, many of the games failed to realise their crowd-drawing potential.

But from a personal point of view, I found it much more enjoyable being at the soccer in February and March than I ever have enjoyed it in June, July or August.

If we go back to the traditional season, soccer will continue sliding backwards.

There would be nothing to reverse the trend.

On the other hand, by playing in the summer we are at least breaking new ground.

By
**Laurie
Schwab**

3LO SWITCH
ABC radio 3LO is switching its soccer segment from Saturday morning to Saturday evening. Some time between 6pm and 7pm.

A permanent time slot will be allocated within the next few weeks.

The new time slot has been chosen to allow Victorian League, State League and Saturday NSL scores to be broadcast.

I also will preview the Sunday NSL matches and present the usual news topics, discussions and special guests which have been part of our segment since we started about six years ago.

★ ★ ★

LEADERSHIP
THE Australian Soccer Federation is about to restructure its leadership.

The proposal is for an elite four-man committee — or commissioners, in VFL jargon — to be granted power to run the game. They would either replace or be senior to the present cast of thousands that makes up the ASF executive.

Meanwhile, Sir Arthur George is due to step down in July from the ASF presidency he has held since late 1969 when he took over from Sir William Walkley.

There are two schools of thought about his replacement.

Either the new man will be another working president — and in that case, Charlie Perkins and John Constantine are likely candidates — or he will be a figurehead president, a man drawn from public life on the strength of his clout, his charisma, his standing.

We would be talking about a Gough Whitlam, Malcolm Fraser, Neville Wran, Paul Hogan or Edna Everage.

CHOICES
HOPE or oblivion are the choices confronting Makedonia when it meets John Markovski's George Cross at Sunshine on Sunday.

Victory with Zoran Tasevski and Steve Jackson back in the line-up — would give the despairing Makedonia fans a little cause for optimism.

Defeat would be disastrous in terms of the club's 1988 ambitions, as Makedonia was aiming for the stars when the season started.

At Schintler Reserve, we will see the return of Oscar Crino to the Footscray JUST midfield — and that is just what the team needs to realise its enormous potential.

Warren Spink has been scoring regularly, but JUST also needs a regular supply of goals from Milan Dimoski and from the midfield.

That's where Crino comes in. He not only scores them, he also sets them up and he runs the game.

However, Sydney Croatia also will be strengthened by the return of its Socceroos — Graham Jennings, Graham Arnold and Alan Hunter — but while Footscray JUST will find the opposition determined and talented, it nevertheless should win on its home ground.

MY TEAM
AT this early stage of the season, my NSL all-star XI, based on performances so far, is:

Con Giatas (Hellas) — Charlie Yankos (APIA, Australia) — Wally Savor (Sydney Croatia, Australia), Gary van Egmond (Footscray JUST) — Paul Wade (Hellas, Australia), Oscar Crino (Footscray JUST, Australia), Steve Tasiros (Hellas), Ken Murphy (Footscray JUST) — Frank Farina (Marconi, Australia), Paul Trimboli (Hellas), John Markovski (George Cross).



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| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|
| HEIDELBERG UTD | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 8 |
| NORTHCOTE CITY | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 8 |
| CROYDON CITY | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 7 |
| GREEN GULLY | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 6 |
| Thomastown | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| St Albans | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| Box Hill | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| Maribyrnong | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Bulleen | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Springvale City | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Caulfield City | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Morwell Falcons | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Western Suburbs | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 0 |
| Ringwood City | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 1 |
| Oakleigh | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| Fawkner | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 0 |

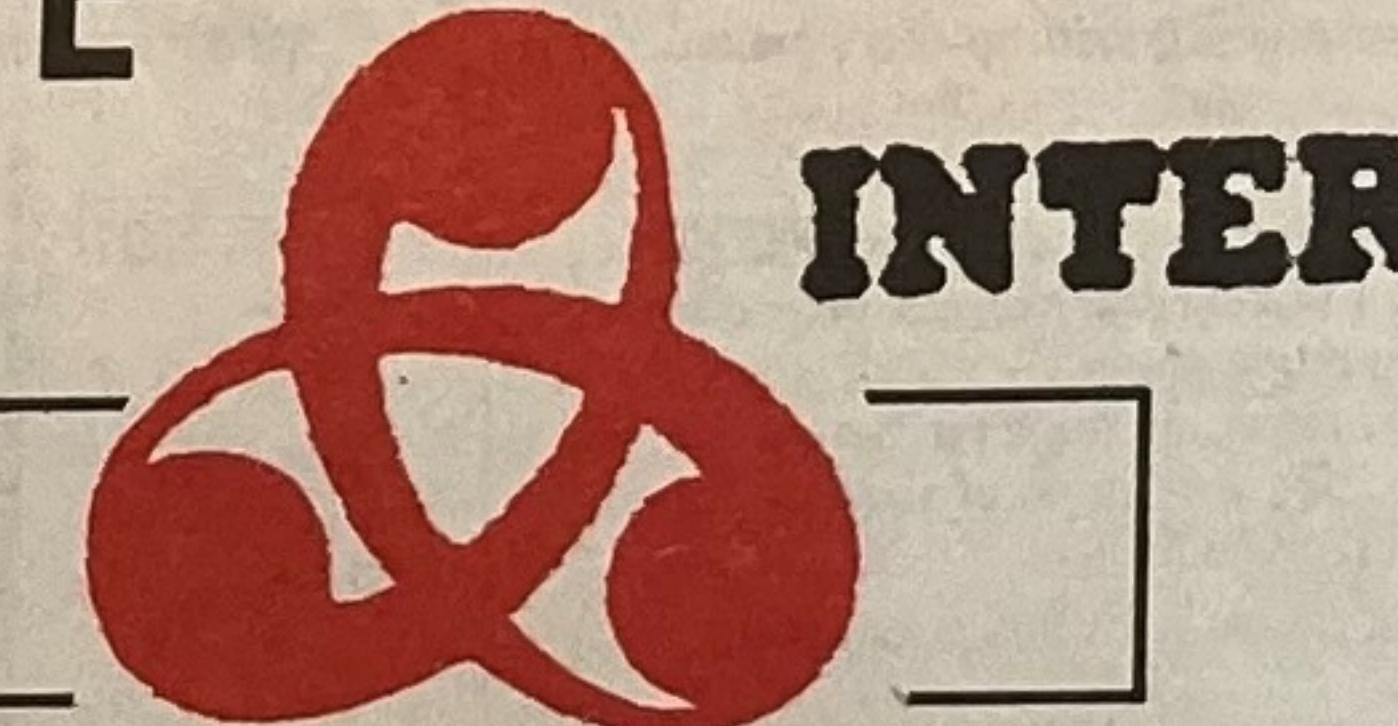
RESERVES

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | PI |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Northcote City | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 5 | 7 |
| Box Hill | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 5 | 6 |
| Caulfield City | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 5 | 6 |
| Green Gully | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 5 | 6 |
| Fawkner | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 6 |
| Morwell Falcons | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 6 |
| Bulleen | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| Heidelberg Utd | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 5 | 5 |
| St Albans | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 5 |
| Ringwood City | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 10 | 4 |
| Maribyrnong | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 10 | 3 |
| Thomastown | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 13 | 3 |
| Croydon City | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Springvale City | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 15 | 0 |
| Oakleigh | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 19 | 0 |
| Western Suburbs | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 20 | 0 |

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HEIDELBERG vaulted over Northcote City at the weekend, to take up the running in the State League Championship, but only on goal difference.

The finishing post is still a long six months away, but it begins to look more and more as though these two teams are going to fight out the title.

Northcote coach Roy McLaren said last week that the Ringwood game would provide an acid test for his team, as it was its first away game.

But it came through the test with flying colours despite missing a penalty early in the game.

And it didn't take Carl Gilder long to put his stamp on the State

League. Whilst he didn't score, his coach was very pleased with him.

"He's the target man we've been lacking," says McLaren, "and his wealth of experience will be very good for our younger players."

He won high praise from the opposing coach last week too.

"Gilder and Ramos practically beat us on our own," says Ringwood's Rob Nelson.

Northcote takes on Oakleigh in the all-Greek derby this Saturday and is under no illusions, despite Oakleigh's lowly position.

"They might be second-bottom," says McLaren, "but we are treating like

Bergers as the best team he's seen this season after being 3-0 last week.

It's like a National League team playing in the State League," was how he described Heidelberg.

"They are still thinking as fast as they used to have to do in the NSL," says Gus, "and that's the difference."

Heidelberg hosts Thomastown this week, and has the opportunity to open up a gap between the top four and the rest.

The closest game of the day could be at Gully Reserve where Green Gully (fourth) takes on Croydon (third).

Thomastown is in fifth place, but coach Bill Murray is far from happy with his attack.

Indications are that the Thomastown defence will give a good account of itself but can the attack get past that seemingly impregnable Berger rear-guard?

Heidelberg has Monday off, but Thomastown has to travel to Morwell for a Dockerty Cup tie.

Suspensions haven't helped of course, and last week Doug Brown, Dean Hennessy and Ged

Stenson were all missing. Stenson were all missing.

It isn't going to be easy to snap out of the slump this week either, with Morwell Falcons starting to play to their potential.

Falcons' hopes of registering their first win were dashed last week when Caulfield's Bruno Cozzella equalised with virtually the last kick of the game.

On thing's for sure, with the talent at his disposal, Bobby McLachlan's team won't stay in Reilly's cellar for much longer.

Caulfield managed a goal at last but its striking problems are far from over and the club is looking

Village, RINGWOOD CITY v. Western Suburbs.

The draw for the First Main Round of the Dockerty Cup is on page 13.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

4. Pappas (Heid)
3. G. Runje (Croyd)
2. Aretis (Box)
- Burton (Box)
- de Bono (MarO
- Duzel (St. Alb)
- Popovski (St. Alb)
- Przybyla (Mar)
- Ramos (North)
- Theodosopoulos (H)
- Thodis (North)

Mirko Runje and Dave McIntosh — together again and keeping a clean sheet for Croydon.

Kew Eagles v. Waverley 0-3

SATURDAY MARCH 27
PROVISIONAL LEAGUE RESERVE CUP

Moorolbark v. Frank Pines. (4-1) ft. 5-4 (AET)

Westgate v. Heidelberg City. 4-1

Altona Gate v. Pascoe Vale. 2-1 (AET)

Ringw. United v. Mordialloc. 1-3

Spring. United v. Clifton Hill. 0-3

Keysborough v. Clarinda. 0-2

East Bruns./Ivanhoe City v. Albion. 1-2

Langwarrin v. Waverley City. 6-1

Langwarrin v. Waverley City. 0-1

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE CUP

Uni. of Melb. v. Berwick. 2-3

Diamond Valley Utd v. Regent. 0-0

Diamond Valley v. UTD won. 4-2 on pens.

Brintons v. North Sunshine ... 2-1 (AET) (FT1-1)

Sth. Springvale v. Ascot St. Marks. FT 1-1

Ascot Vale won. pens 6-5

Kensington Un. v. Forest Hill. 1-1

Ringwood Rovers v. Ardeer. 1-2 (AET)

Malvern City v. Sth. Dandenong. 0-3

Westmeadows v. Sth. Yarra. 2-0

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE RESERVE CUP

Ascot Vale City v. Dingley/Skye. 0-1

Sth. Yarra v. Monash University. 1-1 AET

M. Uni. 65 on pens.

Westmeadows v. Prahran. 3-2

Melton v. South Dandenong. 4-1

Diamond Valley Un. v. Malvern City. 3-2

Uni. of Melb. v. Lyndale United. 5-0

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THE 1988 DOCKERTY CUP



HEIDELBERG IN FRONT

State League Preview
By BRIAN JAMES

Like Heidelberg and

Northcote, these two are

still unbeaten and to add

piquancy to the situation,

Croydon has still to

concede a goal, thanks to

play to their potential.

Falcons' hopes of regis-

tering their first win were

dashed last week when

Caulfield's Bruno

Cozzella equalised with

virtually the last kick of

the game.

Fawker fans must be

wondering when the

nightmare is going to end.

Four games without a

goal or a point is hard to

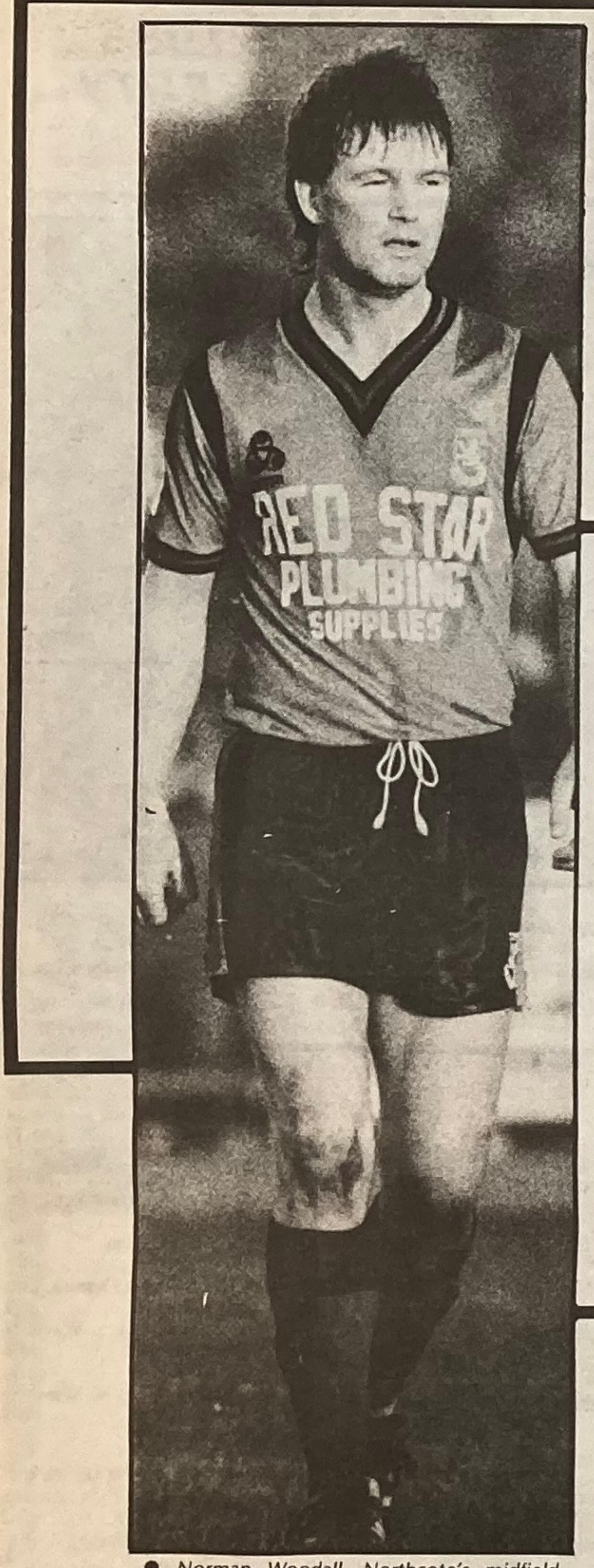
take, especially after last

season's success.

Suspensions haven't

helped of course, and last

week Doug Brown, Dean



● Norman Woodall, Northcote's midfield general.

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STICCA From Page 12

Neither was able to devote enough time to their old clubs due to work and family pressures, yet both wanted to keep in the game.

They were prevented from being registered with this amateur league club in accordance with regulations taken from the Minutes of Board of Managers Meeting, 9/5/78, which in summary stated:

"A non-amateur player may revert to a registered amateur player if:
(a) The player applies in writing to the VSE requesting a change.
(b) That his agreement with the club he was registered with has expired.
(c) He does not play for any club for one year prior to applying for change of player status.
(d) That the player, on applying, has attained the age of 27 (recently changed to 28).
(e) A player having reverted from non-amateur to amateur shall not be permitted to:
(i) play for anyone other than the club he is registered with.
(ii) Having become an Amateur player he shall be permitted to revert back to non-amateur."

They were able to meet the requirements of all these provisions except for the "age of 28" provision. Both were only in their early 30s, and consequently would not be eligible to play for at least another five years!

This archaic rule belies all logical reasoning. Why should a player stay out of the game for so long in order to become re-registered with an Amateur club?

My reasoning of this rule is not clear, but if it was designed to prevent players shifting back and forth between clubs with free transfers, or better, to keep the higher standard players in higher leagues, then it belies all logic because it specifically states that a player having become an amateur player, "shall not be permitted to revert back to non-Amateur". Whatever the reasoning, players like those referred to are being denied the right to play soccer when circumstances prevent them being able to return to a standard which they once attained, but which is evident they will never be able to recoup fully.

JOHNSTON From Page 3

That is all beginning to hinge on the one and only Diego Maradona.

EMERGENCY PLANS

ASF Executive Director Brian Emery toured the Eastern capitals recently inspecting grounds and drawing up emergency plans. In Adelaide, for instance, it's Football Park if Maradona comes, it will be dear old Hindmarsh if he doesn't.

The whole thing might not be a commercial success anyway, even if Maradona deigns to grace us with his presence.

He travels with as big an entourage as any rock group and his personal demands alone could well exceed any profit the tournament might make.

If he as much as sneezes between now and July 10, the ASF will catch pneumonia.

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Soccer Star's



Action-Packed Picture Page

PHOTOS

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● is Oakleigh's Danny Ward learning a new dance?

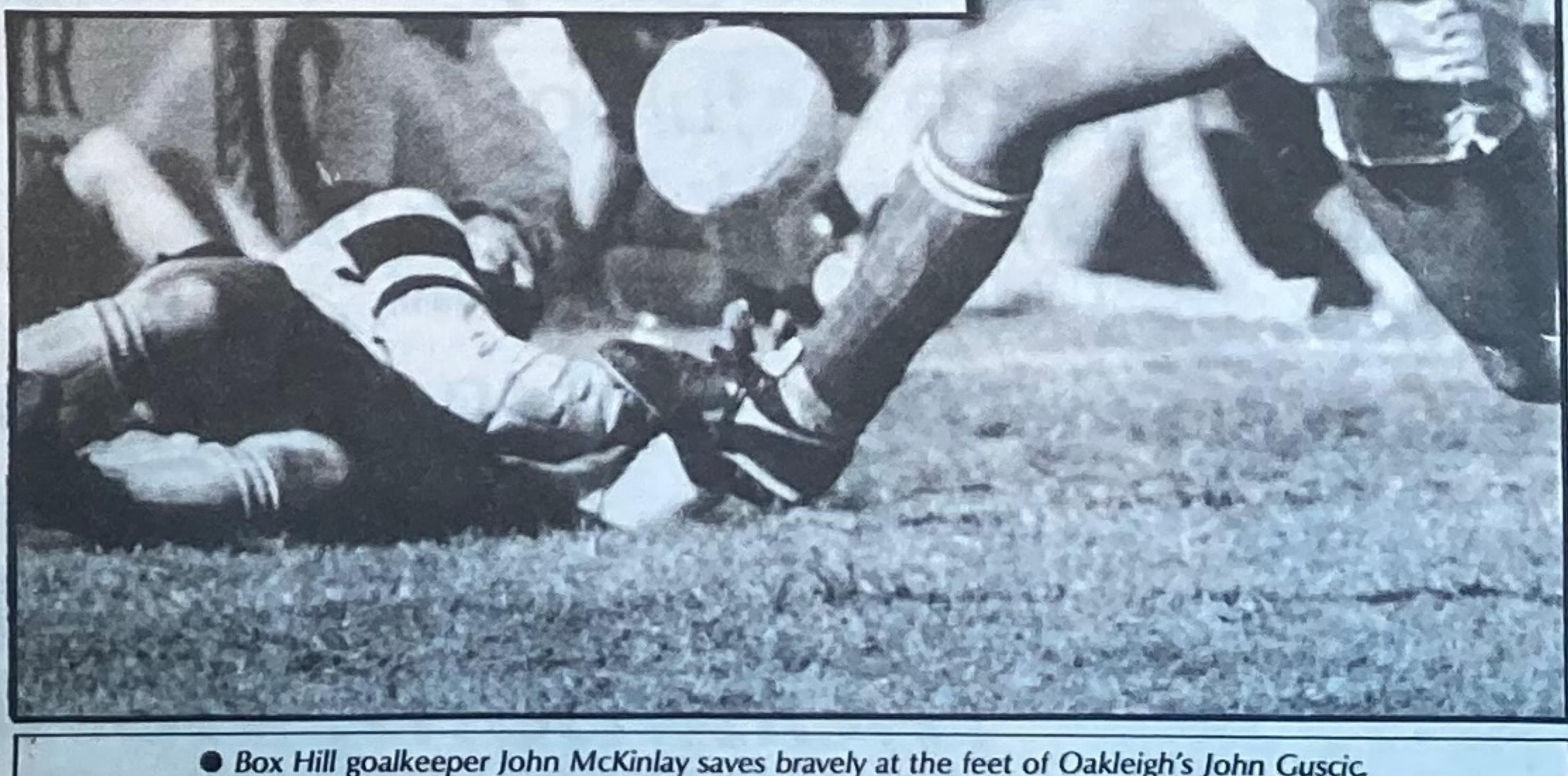
For the best action packed pictures of the State League, don't miss Soccer Star every Thursday, \$1.40 at your newsagent.

Here Ian Currie and Les Shorrock capture all the highlights.

Don't miss this exclusive feature in Soccer Star every Thursday



● Box Hill's Scott McDaid tackles.



● Box Hill goalkeeper John McKinlay saves bravely at the feet of Oakleigh's John Guscic

SATURDAY IS D-DAY

WITH the league season kicking off this Saturday for all Victorian League divisions, every club is gearing itself for what is surely to be the most important season in its history.

Clubs falling victim to the massive restructuring of the leagues are also facing the real threat of total extinction, and thus are approaching this season in a do-or-die fashion.

In Division 1, pre-season favourites include ex-State League teams Frankston Pines and Broadmeadows, with Altona State also looking like championship candidates if last year's form can be maintained.

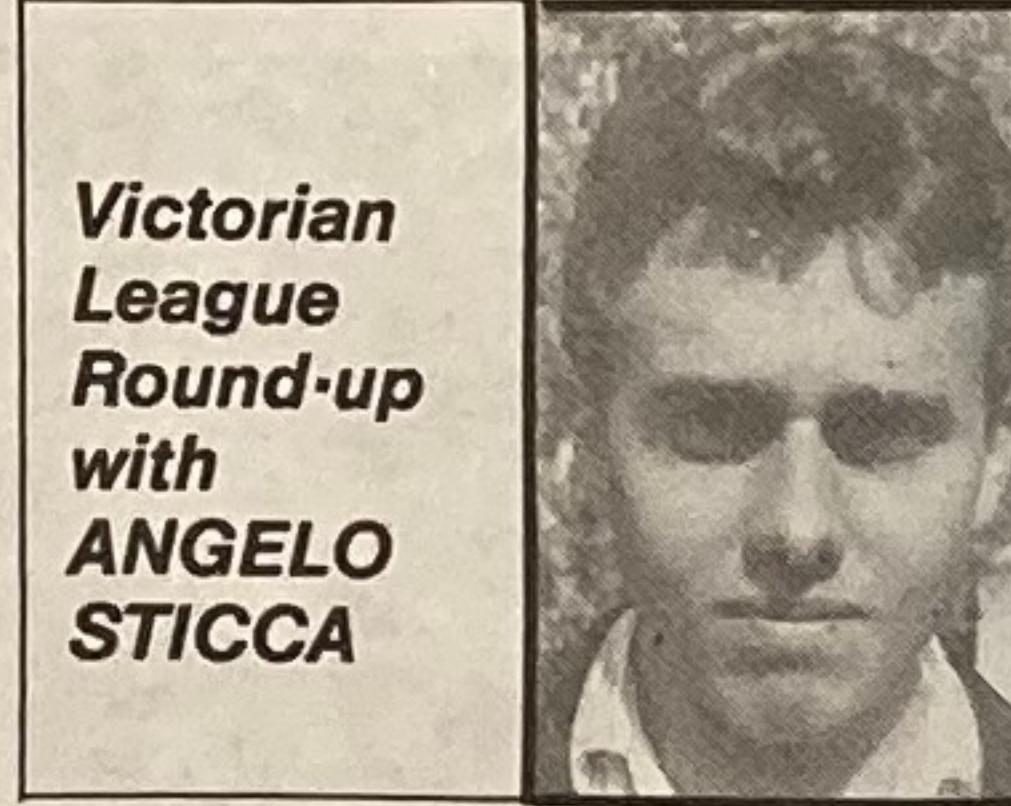
This does not mean that those teams not mentioned are not in contention. On the contrary, with six teams being relegated, reputations and past performances will be cast aside as every team fights its way through the season.

In Division 2, Doncaster Rovers will be flat out in its attempts to make it back to first division, and pre-season form indicates that they will be contenders for the championship this year.

Other teams pushing the Rovers include Sandringham and North Geelong.

Division 3 shapes up as being one of the most even divisions in the league, with any number of teams in the race for the title. The match of the day in round 1 should be the clash between Moorabbin City and Moreland Park Rangers, with both teams ready to go out firing all guns in their battle for success.

Finally, Division 4 will also prove to be a tough battle for all the clubs, and the team to watch in this division is the newly-amalgamated East Brunswick Ivanhoe Abruzzo team,



Victorian League Round-up with ANGELO STICCA

by president Jerry Midolo, the 1988 season will hopefully see some long-deserved success forthcoming both on the field and financially.

• • •
VICTORIAN LEAGUE CUP — ROUND 4

East Brunswick, Ivanhoe, Abruzzo 1 (Savio Albion; 2, O. Latif 2), on Saturday at Ralfe Park, Brunswick.

In a hot and hard battle against both the weather and the opposition, Albion came through as victors, thanks to two beautifully finished goals by Ossie Latif. The game, played in 30 degree heat, was won by Albion who dominated the midfield, where they were able to create many chances for their forward players.

But it was the home team who took the lead when forward Robert Savio rose beautifully to head in a goal from a corner kick half way into the first half. Albion hit back strongly and it was only good goalkeeping from Ricky Mezzada which denied Albion the chance to equalise.

On the field, there have not been any significant changes to last year's squad, having lost only Steve Ellis.

However, top goalscorer from last year, Seve Magnano, is still negotiating a new contract.

"At the moment, we are still negotiating with Thomastown for the services of Tony Constantino," Mr Carmelengo told Soccer Star, "and we have also signed Tony Polzella, equalised for Albion from a neatly worked move which Ossie calmly gathered and put the oncoming goalkeeper."

Coaching the team this year will be John Colangali, and he will hopefully be able to blend the right combination into a successful side.

Ossie repeated this move ten minutes before time, when another neatly worked move saw the Albion speedster gather and shoot past the beaten goalkeeper to settle the issue, giving Albion a 2-1 victory.

On East Brunswick Ivanhoe Abruzzo's

part, it was a good performance considering that it was up against a team placed three divisions above itself.

Despite the result, Fausto Tarquino and Mark Bernini, the combine's dual coaches, must be happy with the team's performances over the pre-season practice and Cup games, and all looks well for a successful season in fourth division.

• • •
RESULTS

ALBION 2 (Latif 2)

EAST BRUNSWICK/IVANHOE 1 (Savio).

MOOROOLBARK 4,

FRANKSTON PINES 4.

Mooroolbark was 5-4 on penalties.

WESTGATE 4

HEIDELBERG CITY 1.

ALTONA GATE 2

PASCOE VALE 1 after extra time.

RINGWOOD UNITED 1

MORDIALLOC 3.

SPRINGVALE UNITED 0

MORDIALLOC 3.

SPRINGVALE UNITED 0

CLIFTON HILL 3.

KEYSBOROUGH 0

CLARINDA 2.

LANGWARRIN 0

WAVERLEY CITY

It was brought to my attention recently of a most unusual case where an Amateur League Club, intent on registering two players, were unable to do so because both had once been non-amateur (red passport) players.

Both had been out of the game for more than one year, one of them for over four years.

• Continued Page 10

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EASTER WEEKEND

SATURDAY — NATIONAL LEAGUE

Brisbane Lions v St George (ko 6 pm).

STATE LEAGUE

St Albans v Maribyrnong.

Oakleigh v Box Hill.

Moorebank v Moreland Park Rangers.

Corio/Geelong v Springvale Un.

DIVISION FOUR

Lalor United v Yallourn.

Moorebank v Moreland Park Rangers.

Corio/Geelong v Springvale Un.

DIVISION FOUR

Chelsea v Boronia.

E. Brunswick/Ivanhoe v Langwarrin.

Ferntree Gully v Rosanna.

Holland Park v Pascoe Vale.

Karingal Un v Keysborough.

Williamstown v Bentleigh Greens.

DIVISION TWO

Oakleigh v Upfield.

East Richmond v RMIT.

Intercity v Old Scotch.

Maccabi v Furian United.

Oakleigh United v Yarraville.

Meadow Park v Ringwood Rovers.

South Dandenong v Port United.

Parkmore v Wantirna.

DIVISION FOUR

Debney Park v Brandon Park.

Mitcham United v Altona United.

Fitzroy City v Ringersdale.

Lyndale United v Northern United.

SUNDAY

NATIONAL LEAGUE

APIA Leichhardt v Wollongong.

St George Cross v Preston Mak.

Footscray v Sydney Croatia.

B. Juventus v South Melbourne.

AMATEUR LEAGUE DIV. ONE

Anstey United v Philip Inst.

Balwyn City v Northern Suburbs.

Collingwood City v Melbourne Uni.

Diggers Rest v Latrobe Uni.

East Altona v Keilor United.

Endeavour Hills v Hawthorn Un.

Waverley Wanderers v Epping Thistle.

DIVISION TWO

Concorde v Camberwell Grammar.

Diamond Valley v Upfield.

East Richmond v RMIT.

Intercity v Old Scotch.

Maccabi v Furian United.

Oakleigh United v Yarraville.

EASTER MONDAY

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Sydney Olympic v Adelaide City.

Marconi v Melbourne Croatia.

DOCKERTY CUP 1st MAIN ROUND

Ringwood City v Doncaster R.

Box Hill v Seaforth United.

Maribyrnong v Mordialloc.

Fawkner v Lalor United.

Oakleigh v Yarraville.

Croydon City v Prahran/Brighton.

Western Suburbs v Rosanna.

Morell Falcons v Thomastown.

St Albans v Clifton Hill.

Green Gully v Westgate.

Caufield City v Moorabbin.

Bulleen v Nunawading City.

Altona Gate v Dandenong.

Springvale City v Clarinda.

Frankston Pines v Albion.

Northcote City v E. Brunswick/Ivan.

DIVISION THREE

Ascot Vale City v Berwick City.

Clifton Hill v Heidelberg City.

Doncaster Rovers v Sandringham City.

Eltham v Ringwood United.

Keilor v Brighton/Prahran.

Yarraville v Port Melbourne.

Doveton v North Geelong.

DIVISION TWO

Ascot St Marks v Forest Hill.

Brintons v Uni of Melbourne.

Carrum United v South Springvale.

Kensington United v St Kilda.

DIVISION THREE

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Page 16 — SOCCER STAR, THURSDAY MARCH 31, 1988

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

ROUND NINE APRIL 2, 3 & 4



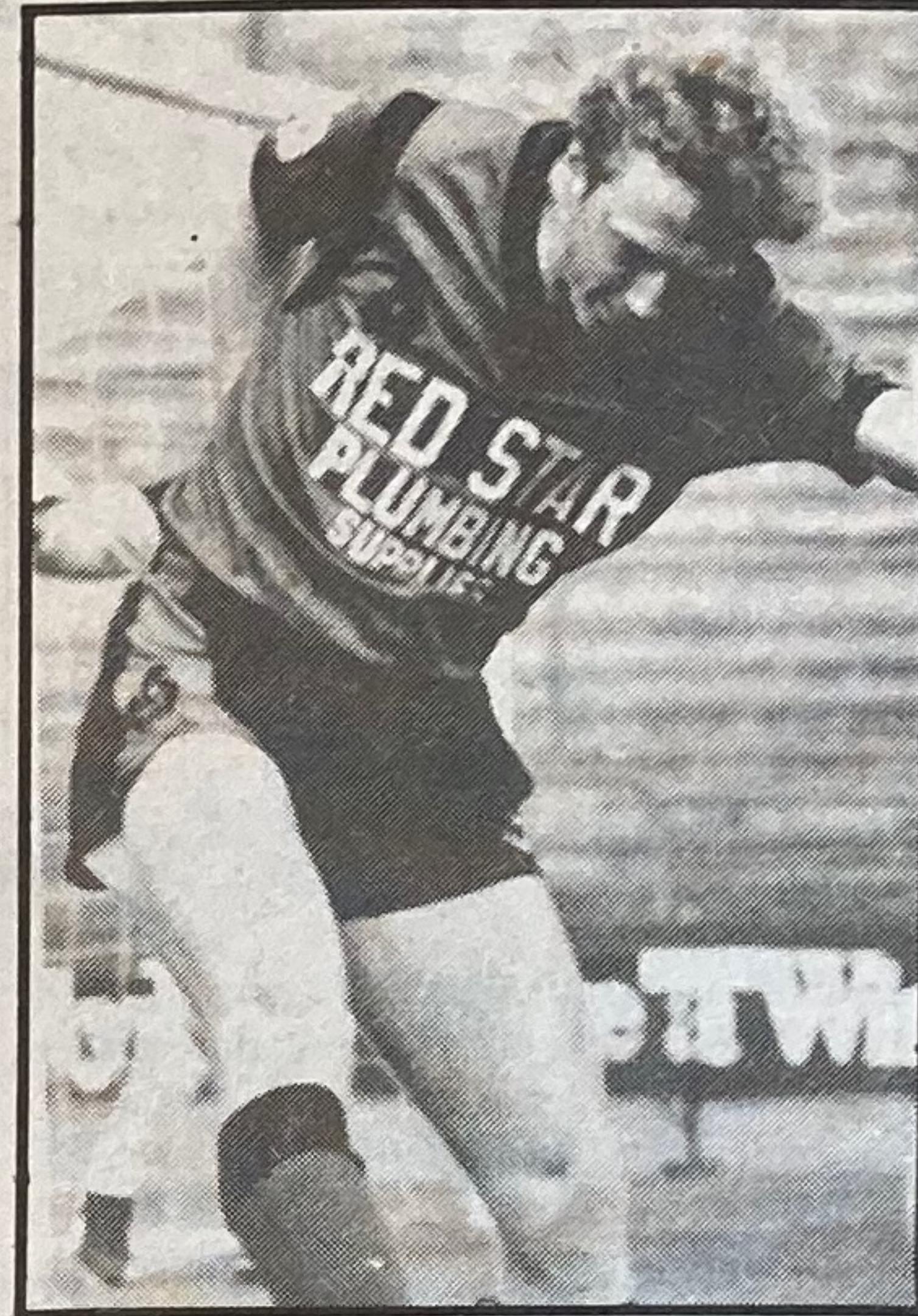
JEFF FAULKNER

SUNSHINE
GEORGE CROSS

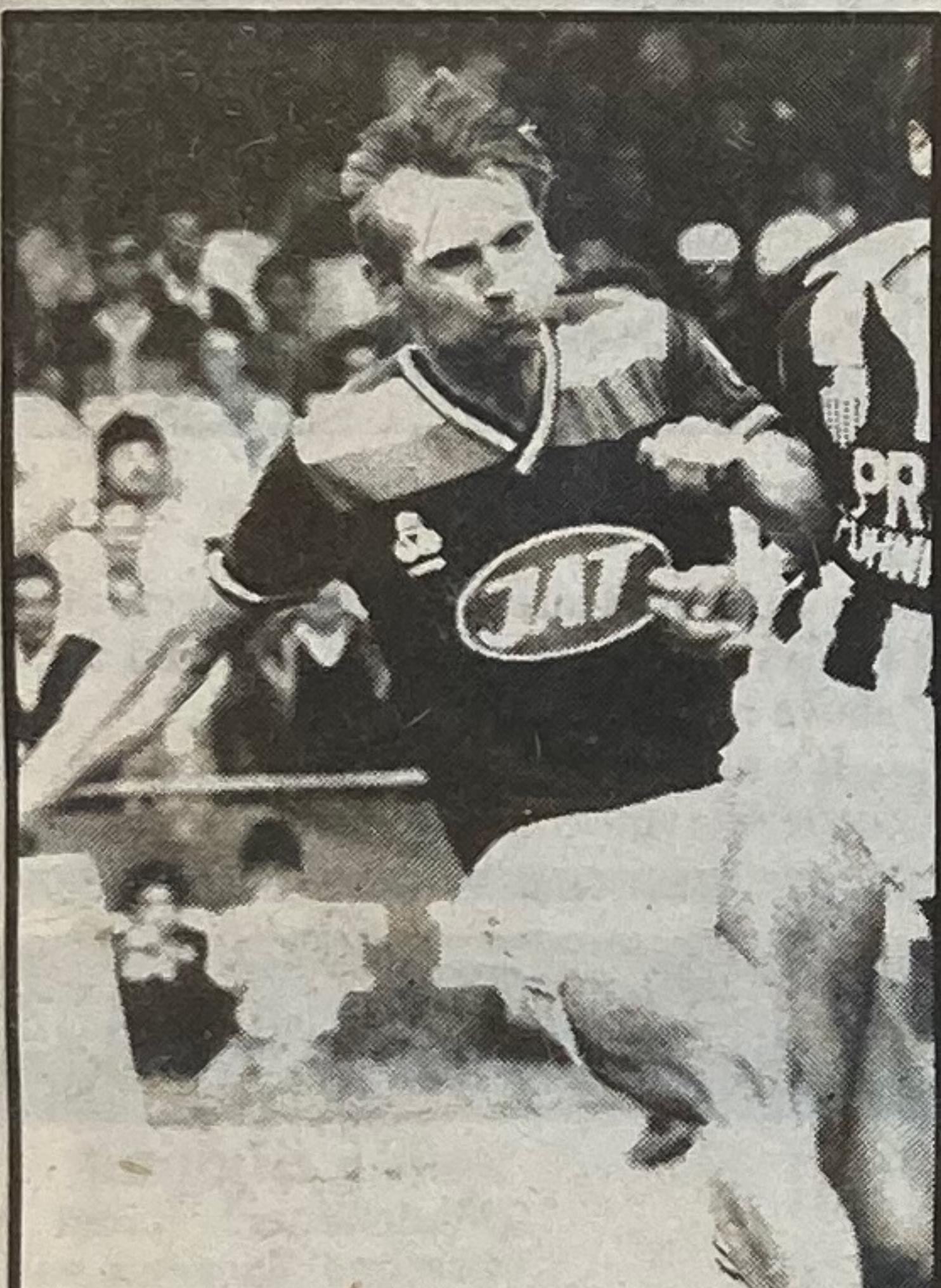
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MIDDLE PARK

SUNDAY APRIL 3
K.O. 2.30 PM



TONY FRANKLIN



JOHN HOWIE

BRUNSWICK
JUVENTUS

V
SOUTH MELBOURNE

OLYMPIC VILLAGE

SUNDAY APRIL 3
K.O. 2.30 PM



BOBBY RUSSELL

BRISBANE LIONS v ST. GOEUGE

RICHLANDS STADIUM SATURDAY APRIL 2 K.O. 6 PM

APIA LEICHARDT v WOLLONGONG CITY

WENTWORTH PARK SUNDAY APRIL 3 K.O. 2.30 PM

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v ADELAIDE CITY

SYDNEY FOOTBALL STADIUM MONDAY APRIL 3 K.O. 2.30 PM

MARCONI v MELBOURNE CROATIA

MARCONI STADIUM MONDAY APRIL 4 K.O. 4 PM